

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

February, 2020

Our first meeting on the year is Tuesday, February 4, 7:00PM at the EOC. Please plan to attend. We plan on a review/follow-up on the Tone Decoder Project presentation that we started at the January Repeater Club meeting.

Bring/wear your vest and other items that you typically wear at the White River Run and Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercises. We'll give everyone a chance to show what we carry and give others an idea of what is needed or at least what might be needed for any activation of this general type.

Changes are underway at the EOC! The ECC is being moved from the front of the building to the back. Our overall floorspace will remain the same, but we'll have to set things back up once all of the walls are removed/installed, and the antenna feedline system is in place. The objective is to remain operational during the construction process, but it'll be something other than walk in and sit down and begin operating. Remember too that we still have MCU-1 to utilize if necessary.

We've been working on completing a "Task Book" for our communicators. The ARRL ARES organization has generated one that we are closely copying. The objective is to identify 3 levels of communicator skills and what their general training and capabilities should be. This will also allow us to document our level of training should we have the need to go to an adjacent County or if we should move to another area and want to be able to fit into a different type of volunteer communicator environment. Additionally, you can see the training and skills that have been identified as important to a communicator in our group or any other group. Come to the meeting to hear about the Task Book and to get an understanding of the benefit to you and to the organization. It's not quite ready for release, but close!

Mark your calendar for the annual StormNet Training on Tuesday, March 17, 7:00PM at the Anderson University York Performance Center (same location as last year). This is an excellent location for the training and there is lots of room for you to bring your family, friends and co-workers who are interested in severe weather. Our presenter will again be from the National Weather Service Office in Indianapolis. As you know their presentations are very interesting and informative. By the way, since this is the third Tuesday of the month our VE Testing is moved to the second Tuesday.

We plan to again this year use our StormNet Training as a starting point to encourage interested folks in getting their Technician license. We will have information at the StormNet and plan help sessions on Saturdays and a get-acquainted session at our April meeting. We'll conclude with our regular VE Test session in April.

Gary, W9GNR, and Jeff, K9DYR, have been interfacing with our neighboring Counties during their regular communications nets. Here is the list that Gary works from. Perhaps you will want to listen or participate in these nets:

Sunday:	2000	Madison Co.	146.820 / 110.9
	2000	Hamilton Co.	145.170 / 77.0
	2030	Grant Co.	146.790 / 141.3
Monday:	1930	Shelby Co.	145.480 / 88.5
	2000	Kokomo ARC	147.240 / 173.8 (Operates Mon. thru Fri.)
Tuesday:	1930	Hancock Co.	145.330 / 88.5
	2000	Tipton Co.	443.700 / 131.8 (Informal QSO after net)
Wednesday:	1900	Newsline	146.700 / No PL
	1930	Marion Co. ARES	146.700 / No PL
	2000	MCARC Net	145.390 / 151.4
Thursday:	1930	Howard Co.	146.910 / 173.8
	2100	Delaware Co.	441.825 / 110.9
	2100+	Delaware Co.	441.700 / 127.3
	2100+	Delaware Co.	146.490 Simplex

You might also make sure that you have your radios programmed for these repeater systems should the need arise.

Later in the year there will be a major exercise hosted by Madison County involving several hundred people and 4 days. This isn't just local! Hams will play a significant role in this event so we'll need your participation. Come to the meeting to hear from Tom on the general plan for this event.

As always, if you know of hams in our County that might have an interest in our Division make certain that you invite them to attend our February meeting.

See you on Tuesday.

73,
Steve

**Notes from Communications Division Meeting
December 3, 2019**

1. The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Jeff, K9DYR.
2. Jeff led us in the Pledge to the Flag.
3. Everyone was confirmed to have signed the Sign-In sheet.
4. We welcomed Jeff Ferrel, K9HCA, the Hancock County EMCOM/RACES/ARES Officer, who was visiting our meeting.
5. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.
6. Jeff mentioned the past activities which included the Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercise, the Sunday evening Nets and the lack of weather incidents.
7. Upcoming activities include the December 12 EOC Exercise which is a Seminar to help everyone learn the various positions within the EOC. Also with the weather change it's time to review what is in your GO-BAG to make certain it's ready.
8. Tom, W9EEL, reported that the weather is expected to be a tranquil week with Thursday being the best, followed by late next weekend some participation. He didn't have a long range forecast. Tom did report that Warning Officer Dale, KV9W, was "Under the Weather" tonight.
9. Tim, KB9VE, reported that the replacement anemometer has been received for the weather station at the EOC and they are waiting for an opportunity to get a County Highway bucket truck to get it replaced.
10. Gary, W9GNR, reported for ARES that there was 1 exercise, the RTM, for 64 man-hours and 4 nets for 95 man-hours for a total of 169 man-hours for last month. It's reported to the Indiana Section ARRL.
11. Steve, WA9CWE, presented a Training presentation on CTCSS/PL. This included a history of how it came about in the commercial service and how it implemented in the amateur ranks. He showed early PL encoders that were put in radios before it became a standard feature on radios. How it works on our radios was also discussed. This is an issue in light of the Run-The-Mounds exercise that resulted in one member not having his radio correctly programmed. The presentation will be on the ARC Website.
12. Steve also discussed the Run-The-Mounds Communications exercise and why this training on PL was timely. It was good that we had a low pressure event like the exercise to work out this type of problem that resulted from an improperly programmed handheld expecting to detect a CTCSS when we weren't using any.
13. Alan, NA9LA, briefly mentioned an issue discussed at the Indiana Repeater Council meeting at the Fort Wayne Hamfest.
14. For the EMA Report Jeff mentioned that the County had processed all of the claims for this year. Nothing will be paid for until next year (a normal situation). Also Gary has refurbished a VHF/UHF antenna and it'll be installed by Jeff & Tom in the near future at the EOC. It'll be above the roof which will benefit the dual bander in the ECC which is currently using an inside antenna. The upcoming EOC exercise starts at 6PM.
15. Jeff, K9HCA, discussed the Hancock County activity and an upcoming exercise in March. They have been testing simplex activity on their nets and it works well.
16. The meeting was closed at 2000 with 16 present.